

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Dept. of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division
31770 Gonzaga Rd. Ca 95322

Lead Agency: California Department of Water Resources

Project Title: Volta Road Vegetation and Rodent Burrow Removal

Project Location City & County: City of Los Banos, Merced County

Project Location – Specific: The Project is located on the left (L) side of the California Aqueduct (Aqueduct), from milepost (MP) 76.78L to MP 82.18L, approximately 5.4 miles southwest of the City of Los Banos. The Project is located between Volta Road on the northwest, and Mervel Avenue.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: A California Conservation Corps crew will use chainsaws and hand tools to remove almond trees from the Aqueduct right-of-way. The felled trees will be placed in a wood chipper; the wood chips will be spread on the Aqueduct embankment. Roundup will be applied on tree stumps to prevent future growth. Rodent burrows that threaten the integrity of the Aqueduct will be filled and compacted with soil using hand tools. State Water Project Contractors will benefit.

Exempt/Suspend Status:

- Ministerial (§21080[b][1]; 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Proclamation of a State of Emergency Due to Drought)
- Emergency Project (Public Resources Code §21080[b][4]; California Code of Regulations §15269[c])
- Categorical Exemption: 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project Is Exempt: Work consists of minor alterations to land and vegetation. The work will not remove healthy, mature, scenic, trees. Categorical exemption 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) applies.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Water Resources

Contact Person: Eleuterio Diaz, Planner Scheduler and Utility Craftworker Supervisor, WR

Telephone:(209) 827-5190

Signature: Eleuterio Diaz **Date:** 1/20/2022 **Title:** 1/20/22

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant